

BOROUGH OF MONMOUTH



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1971

M. S. MATHARU, L.R.C.P., & S.I., L.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

Council Offices,
Monmouth

BOROUGH OF MONMOUTH

Mayor

Councillor R. Bishop

Deputy Mayor

Alderman R. R. H. Willcox

ALDERMEN

Mr. W. L. Bigham

Mr. J. C. Lewis

Mr. P. C. Harris

COUNCILLORS

Mrs. N. C. A. Smith

Mr. C. H. Martin

Mrs. N. S. Price

Mr. R. N. Smith

Mr. W. J. L. Wills

Mr. G. C. Moss

Mr. S. H. H. Clarke

Mr. G. E. Butler

Mr. B. F. Amos

Mr. T. D. Flynn

Mr. H. W. Bywater

Town Clerk - D. G. Allen, F.I.M.T.A.

Public Health Sphere Leader

Councillor Mrs. N. S. Price

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health

M. S. Matharu, LRCP & SI, LM, DPH.

Borough Surveyor

D. H. Cowles, MAPHI, AFS.

Additional Public Health Inspector

W. R. Taylor

BOROUGH OF MONMOUTH



MONMOUTH

13th April, 1973

The Mayor, Alderman and Councillors of the Borough of Monmouth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Borough of Monmouth for the year ended 31st December, 1971.

1971 has proved to be rather a momentous year in that we had a postal strike, but due to the full co-operation and co-ordination between the County and local authorities within the County it was possible to continue to get letters to their proper destinations. This also applied to the delivery of vaccines to the various clinics within the County, and it was, therefore, possible to carry on immunising children and adults in the various clinics. This caused at times a great pressure of work to build up at our local office but with the help of competent staff it was possible to maintain a good standard of communication.

The health of the Borough continues to be satisfactory. There has been quite an increase in the population which cannot now be classed as marginal.

In the production of this report I would like to thank Mr. Cowles and Mr. Taylor for their support at all times and the efficiency with which they carried out their various Public Health duties.

I remain your obedient servant,

M. S. Matharu
Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

Diptheria

For eighteen consecutive years no case has been notified.

Smallpox

No cases of smallpox have been notified

Poliomyelitis

No cases of poliomyelitis have been notified

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning have been notified

Tuberculosis

Two cases of primary tuberculosis were notified.

MONMOUTH BOROUGH 1971

STATISTICS

Births

| <u>Live Births</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Grand Total</u> |
|--------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Legitimate | 43 | 50 | 93 | 102 |
| Illegitimate | 5 | 4 | 9 | |

The birth rate shows an increase on the 1970 figures but is still not as high as the number of births recorded since 1950 and that of 1952 when the birth rate was 111 and the lowest was 73 in 1959.

| <u>Still Births</u> | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | 1 | 0 | 1 |

The stillbirths in this year compare favourably with 1970 but obviously they do not rank in the same way as in 1960, 1962 and 1965 when there were no still births at all.

Infant Mortality

This year there were four deaths of infants under one year - one male and three females. This year obviously does not compare favourably with 1970 when there were only two deaths under one year but it does compare very favourably with 1951 when there were five deaths in this age group.

Deaths

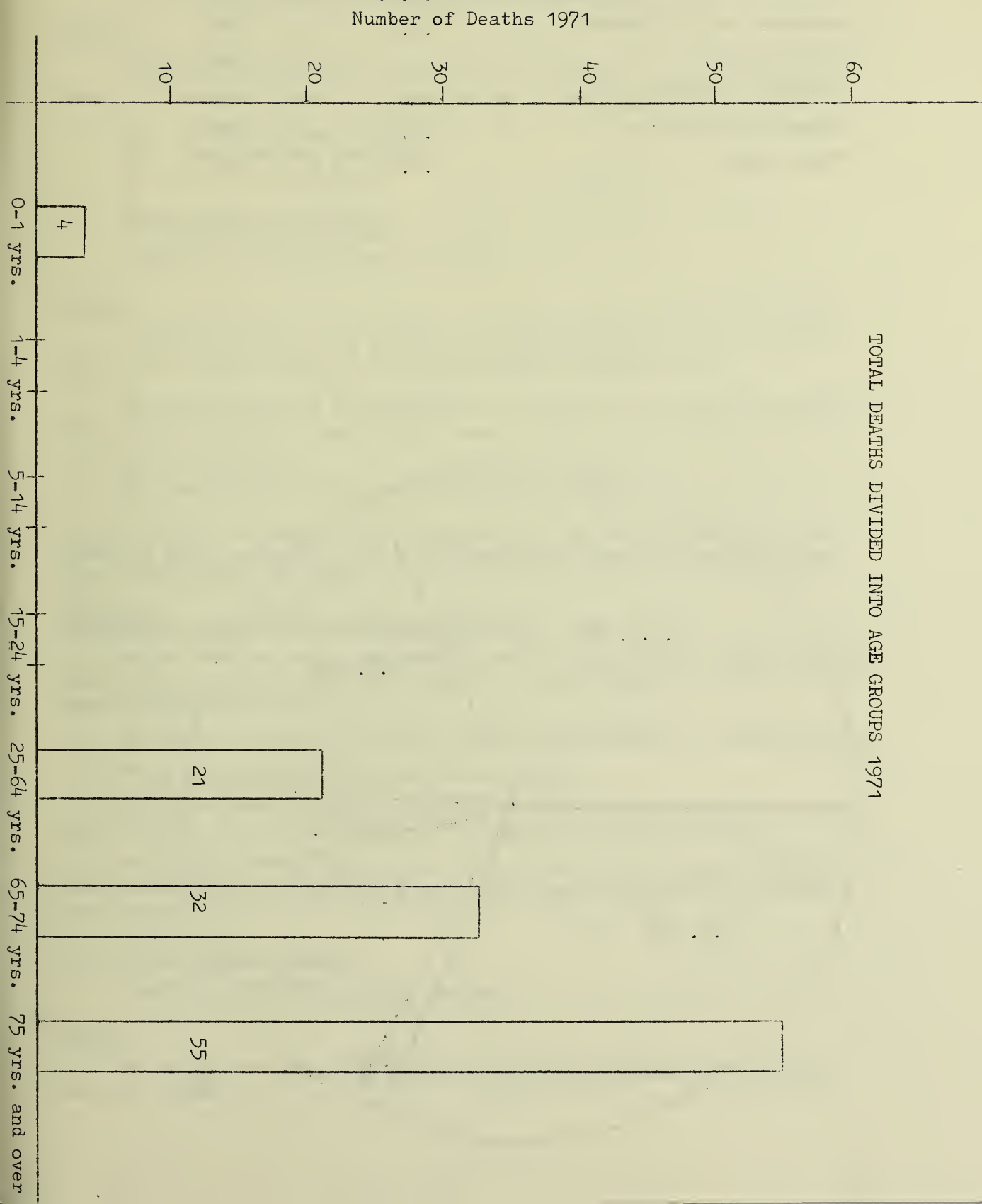
| <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 47 | 65 | 112 |

It is also interesting to note that there has been a rise in the death rate from 88 in 1970 to 112 in 1971.

DEATHS IN MONMOUTH BOROUGH 1971

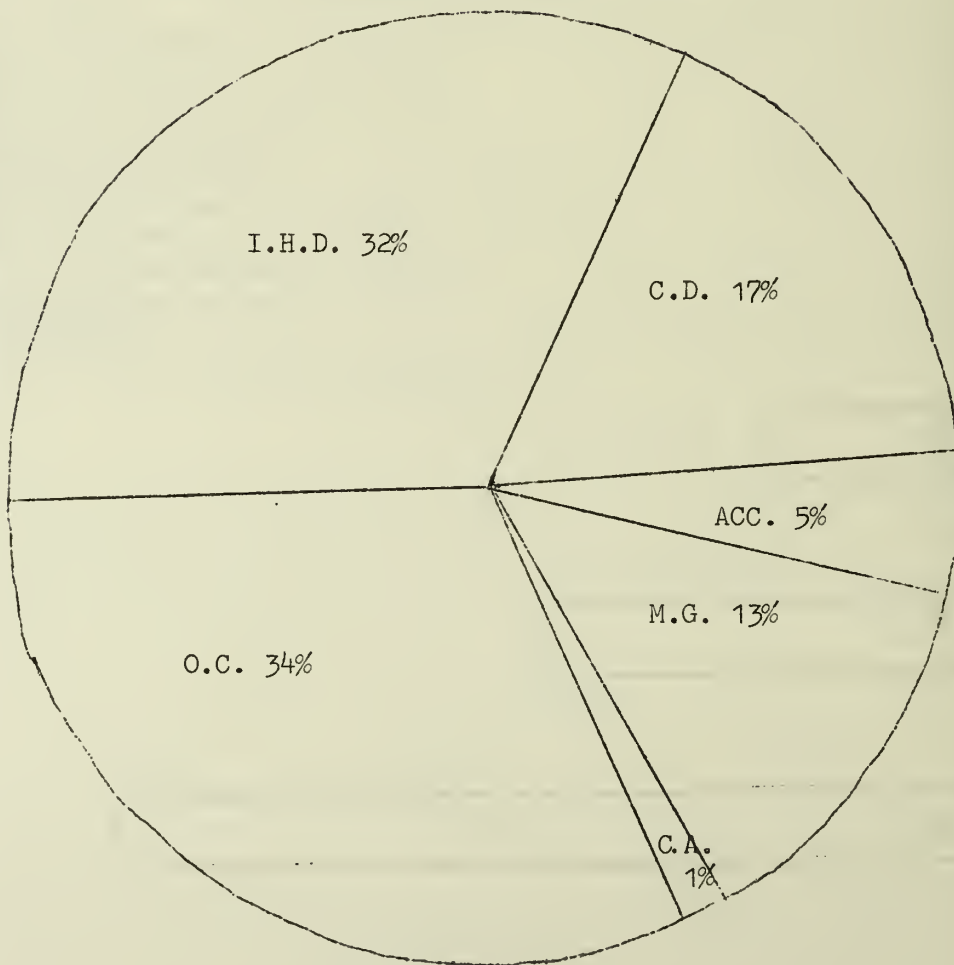
| | <u>Males</u> | <u>Females</u> |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| Syphillis and its sequelae | 1 | - |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 1 | - |
| Malignant neoplasm, intestines | - | 2 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung and bronchus | 1 | - |
| Malignant neoplasm, prostate | 1 | - |
| Other malignant neoplasms | 3 | 5 |
| Diabetes | - | 1 |
| Other diseases of nervous system | 1 | - |
| Chronic rheumatic heart disease | - | 2 |
| Hypertensive disease | 2 | 3 |
| Ischaemic heart disease | 10 | 15 |
| Other forms of heart disease | 3 | 8 |
| Cerebral vascular disease | 7 | 12 |
| Other diseases of the circulatory system | 1 | 4 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 1 |
| Bronchitis and emphysema | 6 | 1 |
| Other diseases of the respiratory system | - | 3 |
| Peptic Ulcer | 1 | - |
| Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia | 1 | - |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | 1 | - |
| Other diseases of digestive system | 1 | 2 |
| Nephritis and Nephrosis | - | 1 |
| Hyperplasia of Prostate | 1 | - |
| Other diseases, genito-urinary system | - | 1 |
| Congenital anomalies | 1 | - |
| Symptoms and ill defined conditions | - | 1 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 2 | - |
| Other accidents | 1 | 2 |
| Suicide and self inflicted injuries | - | 1 |
| | <hr/> 47 | <hr/> 65 |

TOTAL DEATHS DIVIDED INTO AGE GROUPS 1971



1971

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------|---|-----|
| Ischaemic and Heart Disease | = | I.H.D. | = | 32% |
| Cerebro-Vascular Disease | = | C.D. | = | 17% |
| Accidents | | | = | 5% |
| Malignant Growths | = | M.G. | = | 13% |
| Congenital Anomalies | = | C.A. | = | 1% |
| Other Causes | = | O.C. | = | 34% |



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The main water supply of the town is supplied by the Gwent Water Board. There are three separate sources of supply:-

- (1) High Pressure, Buckholt
- (2) Low Pressure, Buckholt
- (3) River from Mayhill

(1) High Pressure, Buckholt

Supplies 110,000 gallons per day.

Source

The known source is a spring in an opening in the rock formation in a large quarry situated in woodland and is fenced off.

The possibility of contamination at source is reduced to animal wild life. The gathering grounds consist of:-

- (a) Woodland
- (b) Agricultural land forming sides of hill

As spring is near top of a syncline in the rock formation it is possible that there may only be contamination from this agricultural land during heavy rainfall.

Collection, Purification and Distribution

Water from gathering grounds drains to inaccessible chamber buried under road, and to collection chambers within boundary of plot of land owned by the Undertaking.

The water is piped from these collecting chambers to storage tanks.

Water is chlorinated by Gas Chlorination.

The chlorinated water passes from storage tanks to main to Buckholt Water Works. Here it is filtered and passes out to town mains.

At Highfield Road this supply is fed into 75,000 gallon storage tanks which feed Osbaston and town, including the Kymin, via hydrostat, and Wyesham.

(2) Low Pressure, Buckholt

Supplies 1,241,000 gallons per day.

Source

The origin of source is unknown, gathering grounds are probably Buckholt Woods.

Collection, Purification and Distribution

Spring water collects in chamber by side of road below Cider Mill Cottage and is piped to Buckholt Water Works. Here it is chlorinated, then passed through slow sand filters and into the town mains. These mains go across country to Leasbrook Lane and feed Dixon Road, etc.

Water Works, Buckholt

These consist of:-

- (1) High Pressure filter
- (2) Two slow sand filters
- (3) Drip feed chlorination. Chlorine solution made from chloride of lime.

(3) Mayhill Supply

Supplies 171,000 gallons per day

This is mainly river water pumped

Water Works, Mayhill

These consist of:-

- (1) Storage tank, 245,000 gallons
- (2) Two slow sand filters
- (3) Chlorination tanks
- (4) Clean water storage, 12,000 gallons

The water passes through sand filters, is chlorinated by Gas Chlorination in clean water storage tanks.

The supply was regularly sampled for bacteriological examination. 97 samples being taken as follows:-

| | No. | Pass | Fail | Result on Resampling |
|---------------|-----|------|------|----------------------|
| Public Supply | 39 | 39 | Nil | Satisfactory |
| Private | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

General Remarks

The poor pressure areas of Rockfield, Brook Crescent and Brook Estate have now been improved and the cisterns converted from low pressure to high pressure types.

Drainage and Sewerage

During the year 72 private houses were connected to the main sewerage system.

- (a) 13 Council owned properties were also connected

Redbrook

Sewage on east side of Wye gravitates to a position near the opening to the present inverted syphon on the east bank of the River Wye. A pumping station has been constructed on Corporation land behind the Monmouth School pavilion. A pumping main has been laid across the School playing fields, following the line of the old sewerage to the Redbrook Road and along the road to the treatment works.

The works consist of:-

| | |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 2 | Detritus Chambers and Screens |
| 4 | Settlement Tanks |
| 4 | Filter Beds |
| 6 | Humus Tanks |
| 12 | Sludge Beds |

together with various pumps and mains at the treatment works.

During the year repair work was carried out to the brickwork of the filter beds, without interruption of the general treatment of sewage.

Sewage first goes to the detritus chambers and screens where large solids are screened and passed direct to the sludge drying beds. Sewage passing through the detritus screens goes next to the settlement tank where biological action takes place and the solids left again go through to the sludge drying beds. Liquid sewage, with suspended solids from the settlement tanks is then passed through to the filter beds. Bacteriological action takes place in these beds further breaking down the liquids into non-noxious parts. From the filter beds the liquid goes to the humus tanks where all remaining suspended solids are precipitated and passed to the sludge drying beds. The remaining liquid, which is now virtually pure, is then discharged into the river. Any liquid remaining in the sludge drying beds drains off and is passed back for further treatment. The sludge when dry is removed.

The works operated satisfactorily throughout the year, the Royal Commission standards being obtained for final effluent.

Sewage Disposal - New Works

The works on Phase 2 at Redbrook Road Works completed in 1966 have now been brought into use following the completion of the pumping main.

Unsewered Areas

There remains three areas of the town without a sewerage system, namely,

- (a) Northern area - Manson Cross, Manson Heights and Manson Lane;
- (b) Leasbrook Lane and the lower half of Dixon Road;
- (c) Osbaston - Phase II of the scheme was commenced. This brought Upper Prospect Road into the water carriage system thus alleviating to a great extent the existing nuisance from septic tanks in this area.

These properties are served by individual septic tanks constructed and maintained by the user. Outside the areas already discussed are scattered cottages, some of which have septic tank drainage, the remainder using chemical and bucket closets.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The total area of collection remains the same as for previous years.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Weekly collection is made to most of the area, certain outlying areas receive a fortnightly collection. All business premises in the centre of the town receive two collections weekly.

The use of paper sacks has been extended to all new Council property and has proved satisfactory. The existing staff are still maintaining an efficient regular collection service including the new development areas. A new S & D Pakamatic Refuse Vehicle was purchased which has helped to deal with the continuing increase of domestic refuse.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

As from the 1st April Brooksholme Tip has been run under strict "Controlled Tipping" and has greatly improved conditions normally found there. Together with the purchase of a Volvo digger conditions can now only improve, as the tip becomes more and more consolidated and grassed over fires, vermin and smell should be eliminated. A full time operator is employed in surface dressing and "face" control.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses owned by the local authority:-

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| (1) Under the Housing Acts | 841 |
| (2) Other powers | 4 |

Number of houses erected during the year:-

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| (a) By local authority | 13 |
| (b) By other bodies and persons | 57 |
| | <hr/> 70 |

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year

(a) Corporation owned

During the year 1103 complaints were made of defects, these in the majority were inspected by the officers and details of work required were passed to the labour force for action. It is still a matter of concern that we seem to be building a bigger back log of work each year, the tradesmen we have dealt with approximately 800 items of disrepair following complaint. It is proposed in the new year to employ the services of outside contractors to expedite the housing repair programme.

(b) Others

A detailed inspection was made of known "twilight areas" and reported upon.

2. A number of private dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their Officers. NIL

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(1) Proceedings under Section 9 and 10 of the Housing Act;

(a) A number of premises in respect of which notice was served requiring repairs. NIL

(2) Proceedings under Public Health Act;

(a) A number of premises in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. NIL

(b) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice:-

(i) By the owners NIL

(ii) By the Local Authority in the Default of Owners NIL

(3) Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1936

(a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made NIL

(b) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders NIL

| | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (c) | Undertakings given and accepted . . . | 1 |
| (d) | Number of separate houses or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 2 |
| (e) | Number of separate houses or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the house or room having been rendered fit | NIL |
| (4) | Clearance Area - houses demolished | NIL |
| (5) | Unfit houses purchased by agreement and demolished | NIL |

4. Improvement Grants

The use of improvement grants to bring houses up to modern standards is still being encouraged.

Standard Grants - 4 Discretionary Grants - 7

CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

| Site | No. of Vans | W.C's | Taps | Gullies | Bins |
|--|-------------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Drybridge Street | 15 | 1M 1F | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Old Hadnock Road | 8 vans 5 tents | 1M 1F | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 'Riverside,' Homestead Old Hadnock Road | 12 | 3M 3F | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| King's Orchard, Manson | 6 | 1M 1F | 1 | 1 | 3 |

The above are licenced sites; besides these several fields adjoining the river are used by Exempted Organised Bodies. The number of tents on these sites varies considerably from 2 to 30.

Sites used by wandering 'Tinkers', etc.,

Chippenham

Four times this site was used by caravaners, numbers ranging from 1-6 vans, the site being left in a fairly respectable state.

SWIMMING POOLS

There are three pools, one at Monmouth School for Girls, one at Monmouth School and one owned by the Monmouth and District Swimming Association.

Several visits were paid and water examined; all were satisfactory.

SCHOOLS

All schools are on the main sewerage system, and all schools are on the main water supply. Samples of milk and water were taken periodically by Monmouthshire County Council.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Unsound Food

The following miscellaneous foodstuffs were condemned:-

| | | | |
|------|---|---------------|-----|
| Meat | 8 | Miscellaneous | 186 |
|------|---|---------------|-----|

Distribution of Food Premises by Trades

| | | | |
|---------------------|----|-------------------|-----|
| Butchers | 12 | Fishmongers | 2 |
| Greengrocers | 6 | Grocers | 13 |
| General | 19 | Hotels | 4 |
| Guest Houses | 4 | Licenced Premises | 33 |
| Clubs | 4 | Schools | 7 |
| Fish and Chip Shops | 3 | Cafes | 9 |
| Bakers | 3 | Miscellaneous | 3 |
| | | Total | 124 |

Premises Registered under Food and Drugs Act, 1955 S.16

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Ice Cream Premises | 28 |
| Fish and Chip Shops | 3 |
| Sausage and Cooked Meats | 9 |

Disposal of Condemned Food

The unsound food from shops is disposed of at the Refuse Tip.

ANNUAL REPORT ON RATS AND MICE

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Year Ended 31st December, 1968

| | Type of Property | |
|--|------------------|--------------|
| | Non-Agricultural | Agricultural |
| Properties other than Sewers | | |
| 1. Number of properties in district | 2732 | 26 |
| 2.a Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification | 51 | |
| b Number infested by (i) Rats | 8 | |
| (ii) Mice | 43 | |
| 3. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification | Nil | |
| Sewers | | |
| 4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year? | No | |

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| Premises | No. on Register | Number of | | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|---|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | |
| Factories in which Sections 1 2 3 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities. | 7 | 14 | NIL | NIL |
| Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority. | 47 | 8 | NIL | NIL |
| Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises.) | NIL | NIL | NIL | NIL |
| Total | 54 | 22 | NIL | NIL |

2. Cases in which defects were found:-

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more separate "Cases.")

| | No. of cases in which defects were:- | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|--|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred | |
| | | | To H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1) | | | | |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | | | | |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | | | | |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | | | | |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | | | | |
| Sanitary conveniences (S.7) | | | | |
| a. Insufficient | | | | |
| b. Unsuitable or defective. | | | | |
| c. Not separate for sexes. | | | | |
| Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | | | | |
| Total | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Inspection of Business Premises under the following Acts

a) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

During the years inspections, which numbered 67, no serious contraventions were noted and of the few verbal notices given all were complied with on revisiting. Two new registrations were recorded.

| <u>TABLE A REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS</u> | | | |
|--|------|------|--------------|
| Totals | *(1) | *(2) | *(3) *(4) |
| Offices | | 24 | 2 |
| Retail Shops | | 83 | 115 |
| Wholesale shops, warehouses | | 3 | 2 |
| Catering establishments open to the public, canteens | | 19 | 6 |
| Fuel Storage Depots | | 4 | Nil |

*(1) Class of premises

*(2) Number of premises registered during the year

*(3) Total number of registered premises at the end of year

*(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.

TABLE B NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY
INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES

59

| <u>TABLE C ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE</u> | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------|
| Class of Workplace | Number of persons employed | |
| | Males | Females |
| Offices | 13 | 102 |
| Retail Shops | 101 | 236 |
| Wholesale departments, warehouses | 24 | 21 |
| Catering establishments open to the public | 32 | 138 |
| Canteens | Nil | Nil |
| Fuel Storage Depots | 3 | Nil |
| Total | 172 | 497 |
| Total Males and Females | 656 | 497 |

b) Food Hygiene Regulations

All food shops in the Borough were inspected during the year at least once, and it is pleasing to note that apart from a small number of shops a good all round standard of hygiene is maintained.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of formal letters sent re unsatisfactory conditions | 6 |
| Number of legal proceedings taken | NIL |

(c) Shops Act

No serious contraventions were found, minor contraventions were dealt with informally usually without further warnings.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Number of premises inspected | 32 |
| Number of premises re-inspected | 2 |

(d) Food and Drugs Act

There are 40 premises registered under this Act and of the visits made one required informal notice to be served.

